



Lost Dutchman State Park



Red Rock State Park



Verde River Greenway State Natural Area



Yuma Territorial Prison



Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

# SAVE OUR STATE PARKS!

The message is clear:

**Arizona cannot afford closed state parks.**

In order to achieve \$9 million in budget reductions, the state is destroying a \$290 million economic engine that generates taxes for the state general fund, creates jobs and supports local economies throughout Arizona.

## This is economic suicide!

- Arizona State Parks attract 2.3 million visitors annually.\*
- Visitors to Arizona State Parks produce \$266 in direct and indirect economic impact in Arizona.\*
- Visitors to Arizona State Parks produce \$22.7 million in state and local taxes \*
- It costs \$34 million annually to operate all 30 AZ State Parks and Natural Areas.\*\* The Arizona State Parks system creates nearly 10 times that much economic impact and receives no operating funds from state general fund taxes.

Privatization is not the answer; it is a piecemeal approach that does not respond to the needs of the entire park system. Ours is a grand and viable system of state parks, including historic, scenic, conservation and recreation sites bound together for the cumulative benefit of the state's population and its tourism economy.

A reasonable and viable solution has been proposed by the Governor's Task Force for Sustainable State Parks; a vehicle registration fee that would provide open access to all state parks to all Arizona residents.

Now is the time to make this bipartisan issue a priority of the Arizona State Legislature.

\*2007 Arizona State Parks Economic Impact Study by Northern Arizona University

\*\* The Price of Stewardship, The Future of Arizona's State Parks by Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State University

In the face of Arizona's sprawling growth and development, 30 exceptional places have been set aside over the past half century for the recreational, environmental and cultural enjoyment of Arizonans and all who visit our state. The places are the lakes, rivers, historic buildings and rich natural areas that constitute Arizona State Parks - a collection of wonder-provoking sites that the Arizona State Parks Foundation (ASPF) seeks to preserve, promote and enhance.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, ASPF offers the foremost way for parks patrons, visitors and friends to support and strengthen Arizona State Parks through: Advocacy; Volunteer work; Parks friends groups and partnerships; Contributions made towards parks improvements and the acquisition of yet-unprotected, invaluable examples of Arizona's beauty, recreational riches, environmental wonders and historic depth.

[www.arizonastateparksfoundation.org](http://www.arizonastateparksfoundation.org)

